

### MISSION

To build awareness of the intrinsic role brain research plays in understanding ourselves and our society; to help communicate the progress and the benefits of this research; to help inform federal policy.

### ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL NEUROSCIENCE CAUCUS

Our brains affect every aspect of our daily lives – our thoughts, hopes, dreams and imagination, relationships, and our sense of being. It is what makes us uniquely human. The study of the brain informs every aspect of our society – from the level of the individual, to our social networks and our community. Wise decision-making is based on truly understanding the brain and the mind. From neurobiology to neuroethics, neurodevelopment to neurodegeneration, a better understanding of how our brains develop, work, and sometimes don't work, will have a huge impact on society. The brain is the last great frontier of medical science and we need to focus on it now because neuroscience is at a historic turning point. A continuous stream of advances is shattering long-held notions about how the human brain works and what happens when it doesn't. These advances are also other fields, from psychology to economics, education and the law.

Despite these advances, currently one in three individuals is afflicted with a neurological or psychiatric disorder. There are more people with brain disorders than all cancer and heart problems combined. And as society ages, this number will increase exponentially as will the cost to the healthcare system and to the economy. These problems are the leading cause of disability, resulting in more hospitalizations and long-term care than all other disorders combined. From autism to Alzheimer's, neuroscience research is the only way to stem this growing epidemic. It is only through research that the causes, cures, and ultimately prevention of neurological and psychiatric disorders will be found. By unlocking the secrets of the brain, this research will improve the lives of all Americans and people around the world.

### WHAT DO MEMBERS SUPPORT?

- Policies that encourage support for funding of quality neuroscience research.
- Policies that enhance translation and dissemination of discoveries to maximize the medical and societal benefits of research.

### WHAT DOES THE NEUROSCIENCE CAUCUS DO?

The Congressional Neuroscience Caucus will lead a variety of activities: sponsoring briefings and information sessions on neuroscience research and findings; collaborating with patient advocacy, physician and research organizations to build awareness; distributing congressional communications and information such as Dear Colleagues and Congressional Record statements; and developing and promoting legislation that will further advance neuroscience research.